

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6331

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 4966

FROM THE AMBASSADOR FOR S/NM AMBASSADOR VANCE AND ARA/LUERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC, PA

SUBJECT: WHITE PAPER ON DRUG ABUSE

RZF: A) STATE 212160;B) STATE 212161

1. WHITE PAPER'S ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS DO NOT ALTER MISSION'S CURRENT NARCOTICS PLAN. HOWEVER, WE MAY BE CALLED UPON TO PLACE CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE REPORT IN THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE. SPECIFICALLY, ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE THE DOWNGRADING" OF COCAINE'S IMPORTANCE AND DOMESTIC U.S. ABUSE PROBLEM (RELATIVE, THAT IS, TO AMPHETAMINES) COULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD HERE AS A SOFTENING OF OUR OPPOSITION TO COCAINE TRAFFICKING. AND, ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, SINCE THE INCIPIENT DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM IN PARAGUAY INCLUDES AMPHETAMINES, WE MAY BE ABLE TO EXPLOIT THE WHITE PAPER'S "UPGRADING" OF THE MAN-MAN SYNTHETICS TO NEAR-HEROIN STATUS IN THE U.S.

2. REGARDING THE EXCELLENT COMMENTS BY AMBASSADOR BREWSTER (REFTEL B) I AGREE ESPECIALLY WITH PARAGRAPHS 2 (A) AND (B) OF QUITO'S 8744 WHICH ARE PIAPPLICABLE TO OUR SITUATION HERE. REGARDING PARACONFIDENTIAL

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GRAPHS 2 (B) AND (C) OF QUITO'S 8744, IT IS UNLIKELY

THAT PARAGUAY IS READY OR ABLE TO
PAY MORE THAN LIP SERVICE
TO AREA-WIDE ENDEAVORS TO CONTROL ABUSE OF MARIJUANA
AND TRAFFICKING IN GENERAL. (FYI. THE PARAGUAYANS
WHO ATTENDED THE COCHABAMBA REGIONAL MEETING EARLIER
THIS YEAR DID SO WITH A COMBINATION OF CYNICISM (OVER
THEIR ABILITY EVER TO WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH
WHAT THEY CONSIDER THE "CROOKED" BOLIVIANS) AND BE-
MUSEMENT (OVER THE USG'S HAVING PICKED UP THE TAB FOR
WHAT THEY SAY WAS A VERY PLEASANT JUNKET AND SOCIAL
ENCOUNTER. END FYI.) IN OUR JUDGEMENT, PARAGUAY IS NOT
YET READY FOR GENUINE COOPERATION WITH ITS NEIGHBORS
ON NARCOTICS QUESTIONS, AND OUR MAIN EFFORTS SHOULD
PROPERLY CONTINUE TO BE BILATERAL AND (FOR INTELLIGENCE)
UNILATERAL.

3. FINALLY, WITH RESPECT TO THIS MISSION'S NARCOTICS
CONTROL ACTION PLAN, AND UNRELATED TO THE WHITE PAPER
EXCEPT INsofar AS THE LATTER RECONFIRMS THE PRIME
POSITION OF HEROIN AS THE PRINCIPAL U.S. CONCERN,
WITH THE REPORTED POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF LARGE SCALE
HEROIN SHIPMENTS VIA PARAGUAY, WE MAY HAVE TO RE-
FOCUS OUR OWN PRIMARY EFFORTS ON THIS PROBLEM,
RELEGATING COCAINE TO A SECONDARY POSITION. YIJBANAU

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